

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 177682

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, CB, CH, VN

SUBJECT: GOA CONTACT WITH GRUNK IN PEKING

REF: STATE 152032 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF PROVIDED FOLLOWING GIST OF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING.

2. UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CANBERRA (REFTEL) TO EXPRESS GOA

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HOPE THAT THE CAMBODIAN PARTIES WOULD AGREE TO EXPLORE PROS-

PECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FITZGERALD
TALKED WITH GRUNK AND PRC OFFICIALS ON JULY 30.

3. GRUNK OFFICIALS WERE "FOREIGN MINISTER" SARIN CHHAK,
LOYAL SIHANOUK AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT WHO RALLIED TO SIHANOUK
IN 1970, AND VAN PINY. LATTER, 33-YEAR OLD FORMER PROTEGE
OF LEFTIST CAMBODIAN LEADER CHAU SENG, WHO WAS SECOND SEC-
RETARY IN CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS WHEN HE DEFECTED TO
SIHANOUK IN JULY 1970, NOW HOLDS TITLE OF GRUNK VICE MIN-
ISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

4. SARIN CHHAK APPARENTLY RULED OUT ANY CONTACT AT ANY
LEVEL OF GKR EVEN SHOULD PERSONALITIES SUCH AS LON NOL,
SIRIK MATAK OR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ LEAVE
THE SCENE. SARIN CHHAK EMPHASIZED TO FITZGERALD THAT GRUNK
WOULD CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO ACHIEVE "COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE
AND NEUTRALITY" OF CAMBODIA.

5. ASKED IF THE GRUNK WOULD NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE
US, SARIN CHHAK STATED THAT HE HAD NO GUIDANCE FROM THE
"IN-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP" OF THE INSURGENCY AND REITERATED
THE POINT WHEN ASKED IF THIS REPRESENTED SIHANOUK'S POSI-
TION.

6. SARIN CHHAK INDICATED THAT THE GRUNK LEADERSHIP FEELS
THAT MILITARY VICTORY IS ASSURED WITH ADMISSION TO THE UN
(PRESUMABLY CAUSING CONGRESS TO CUT OFF ASSISTANCE TO
PHNOM PENH). SARIN CHHAK AT THE SAME TIME INDICATED A
DISBELIEF IN FITZGERALD'S ARGUMENTS THAT THE US WISHES TO
DISENGAGE WITH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

7. SECOND MAJOR POINT MADE BY SARIN CHHAK REVOLVED AROUND
RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM. SARIN CHHAK SAID THAT GRUNK
WITH RUBBER PRODUCTION PROFITS WOULD BE INDEPENDENT IN
NON-MILITARY REQUIREMENTS THOUGH "CLOSE COOPERATION" WITH
NVN IN MILITARY SPHERE WAS NECESSARY FOR "THE TIME BEING".
HE OBSERVED THAT THE PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE WAS ONE OF
NORTH VIETNAMESE "AMBITIONS."

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8. ON SAME DAY, FITZGERALD CALLED UPON LING PING, OFFICER
IN CHARGE OF AMERICAS AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS IN THE MFA, WHO
SAID THAT PRC "IN GENERAL" SUPPORTED SIHANOUK'S REJECTION
OF THE JULY 9 NEGOTIATIONS OFFER. LING PING APPARENTLY
DODGED QUESTION ON PREFERENCE OF PRC FOR MILITARY OR PO-
LITICAL SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA. KISSINGER

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